

THE SUPERDATE PACKAGE

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1. PURPOSE

The `superdate` package provides the `\superdate` macro that produces the current date and time in the format `YEAR:MM:DD:hh:mm` where

- `YEAR` is the current year,
- `MM` is the current month (from 01 to 12),
- `DD` is the current day (from 01 to 31),
- `hh` is the current hour (from 00 to 23), and
- `mm` is the current minute (from 00 to 59).

This is a sensible format for date/time that puts the most significant data to the left and the least significant data to the right.

It is useful to date papers with `\superdate`, especially when producing multiple versions on a given day.

The separating character is, by default, a colon. This can be changed by redefining the macro `\superdateseparator` like this:

```
\renewcommand{\superdateseparator}{/}
```

Now the output of `\superdate` looks like this: 2020/06/15/21/40.

2. OTHER USER-LEVEL MACROS

A few other handy date/time macros are provided.

- The macro `\hyphendate` produces the current date in the format `YEAR-MM-DD` with leading zeros inserted into the month and date if they are less than 10. Example: Today is 2020-06-15.
- The macro `\ampmtime` produces the current time in 12-hour clock format with the letters ‘am’ or ‘pm’ appended. For example, the current time is 9:40 pm. Note that the hour may appear as a single digit, but the minute will always be expressed with two digits by prepending a zero as needed.
- The macro `\miltime` produces the current time in 24-hour format. Example: the current time is 21:40. Both the hour and the minute will be two digits.

Date: 2020:06:15:21:40.

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3. SETTING A DIFFERENT DATE AND TIME

The date and time used by `\superdate` (and the other macros described in §2) are set from the system clock at the time the `superdate` package is loaded; that is, at the beginning of the \LaTeX run.

The macro `\setclock` is provided so users can reset the clock later in the document, or to set a date/time different from the current date/time. The syntax is:

`\setclock{time}{month}{day}{year}`

where

- *time* is the time expressed as the number of minutes past midnight,
- *month* is the month expressed as number between 1 and 12,
- *day* is the day of the month expressed as a number between 1 and 31, and
- *year* is the year.

This command should be enclosed between `\makeatletter` and `\makeatother`. For example

```
\makeatletter
\setclock{721}{5}{24}{2009}
\makeatother
\superdate
```

produces 2009:05:24:12:01.

Note that this does not modify the output of `\today` which is June 15, 2020.